



Co-Chairs

Cory Pearson, Deputy Director
Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

Carol Ruddell, Administrator Suicide Prevention Programs
Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

THE CHALLENGE

A call to action, asking state military and civilian interagency teams to embark on a process of collaborating, planning, and implementing suicide prevention best practices and policies for Service Members, Veterans and Families (SMVF) state-wide.



OBJECTIVES

- Form an interagency military and civilian team of state leaders and policy makers to develop and implement a strategic action plan to prevent and reduce suicide
- Define and measure success, including defining assignments, deadlines, and measurable outcomes to be reported



UTAH'S TEAM

- **VAHC (Medical Center SLC)**
 - Suicide Prevention, PTSD, Volunteer Services
- **Vet Centers**
- **Utah Army National Guard**
- **University Veteran Services**
 - Suicide Prevention, PTSD, Volunteer Services
- **DHS - Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health**
- **Utah Department of Health**
 - Office of the Medical Examiner, Primary Care and Rural Health.
- **Utah Division of Military and Veterans Affairs**
- **Utah State Board of Education**
- **Intermountain Healthcare**
- **Continue Mission**
- **State Legislature**
- **University of Utah Interns**

Focused Priority Areas



Identify SMVF and Screen for Suicide Risk

- Establish screening standards statewide for identification of SMVF and suicide risk
- Educate providers and peers involved in intake
- Review process for identification of SMVF in mortality and data review



Promote Connectedness and Improve Care Transitions


- Increase SMVF peers trained in suicide prevention to work in connecting SMVF to services
- Develop collaborative policies and protocols across military and civilian agencies to improve continuity of care
- Encourage implementation of caring contact protocols



Increase Lethal Means Safety and Safety Planning

- Implement a gunlock distribution campaign statewide
- Conduct statewide lethal means safety training events
- Convene a working group to support adoption of clinical practice guidelines for safety planning

KEY BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

- Evidence Based Practices
 - Suicide Prevention Infrastructure
 - Data-Driven Planning
 - Engaged Leadership
 - Sustaining Resources
- 
- A decorative footer consisting of three overlapping triangles. The leftmost triangle is red, the middle one is dark blue, and the rightmost one is a lighter blue. They are arranged in a way that they appear to be part of a larger geometric design.

TEAM ACTIONS (Since March)

- **SWOT Analysis - complete**
- **Logic Models for each Priority Area - complete**
- **Goals and Objectives for each Priority Area – in development**



MOVING FORWARD

- Continued development of the strategic plan
- Environmental scan of existing suicide prevention plans to identify areas of partnering
- Creation of a continuous resources list that can be shared widely in both SMVF and civilian areas



Team Utah

“HARD work,
HEART work”



DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

